
**Business Technology Alignment (BTA)
Architecture Working Group (AWG) Meeting Minutes
October 16, 2002**

Location:	830 1 st Street, NE, WDC (Room 101J1), 2:00 –3:30
Members Attending:	Anna Allen Mike Giordano Denise Hill Paul Hill, Jr. Rob O’Keefe Carl Porter Howard Weitzner -- Karen Anderson Bill Malyszka
Absent:	John Gaeta Robert Laurence Martin Renwick Shirley Singleton Ron Sann Paul Peck
Invitees:	Mark Snead Andy Boots Alex Lefur Rupal Mehta
Agenda:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">❑ Opening❑ Electronic Mass Mailing Technical Guidelines❑ FSA Security and Privacy Policy from an Enterprise Perspective❑ Search Engine Update❑ Update on the Software Upgrades at the VDC
Issues/Risks:	None

New Action Items:	<p>Karen Anderson will create a communication for distribution within FSA that describes the new electronic mass mailing guidelines.</p> <p>Denise Hill, Alex Lefur, & Karen Anderson will schedule a meeting between AWG and Autonomy representatives to discuss user feedback on the Autonomy search engine.</p> <p>Denise Hill will survey other government agencies using Autonomy to determine how they are using the product.</p>
Outstanding Action Items:	None
Decisions:	The AWG adopted the electronic mass mailing technical guidelines as established in the ASG white paper.
Next Meeting:	<p>Wednesday, November 13, 2002 2:00pm to 3:30pm Room 103B1&2, 830 1st St. NE</p>

Meeting Discussion Items:

- Opening
 - Mike Giordano was introduced as a new AWG member representing CSC. He is replacing Ray Thomas.
- Electronic Mass Mailing Technical Guidelines
 - To review, the ASG developed guidelines for the use of electronic mass mailing in testing and production systems. The scope of the guidelines covers testing, network capacity, and message construction. The guidelines have been presented to the AWG and were distributed within the business channels for commentary. The AWG voted to adopt the guidelines and to include them in the *FSA Technology Policies, Standards, and Products Guide*. The guidelines will also be distributed throughout FSA.
- FSA Security and Privacy Policy from an Enterprise Perspective
 - FSA is currently attempting to identify and develop an enterprise security architecture. First, a conceptual framework will be identified then technologies applied to met the enterprise security needs within the framework. Several approaches exist to solve this problem, but none emerge as a best fit for FSA.

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- One challenge is that no one owns authentication and identity management for the enterprise. Other security services are also not present at the enterprise level. Many of the security products that auditors require have been fused into the SLC process, but there is no enterprise integration of reusable security services. The SLC is applied at the application level. A successful security architecture for FSA will balance reusability with meeting individual application needs.
 - ED is proposing a process of certifying and accrediting each system before it goes live into the production environment. This is likely to be very expensive and present delays to FSA applications, which are frequently updated. The proposed ED process would be very taxing in a fluid and ever-changing environment such as FSA's. The current PRR provides for most of the ED requirements without the expense or potential delays.
 - It is agreed that an enterprise security framework is necessary. One possibility is to build on the Target Architecture Vision, which already incorporates security components. The formal development of a security framework is proposed for FY03. As integration progresses within FSA, establishing core functions such as security is paramount as other frameworks such as XML will be dependent on security. Business Channel buy-in will also be a prerequisite for any successful security architecture. ITA is a good example of a consistent and reusable framework that has benefited the Business Channels.
 - Search Engine Update
 - The current search engine product is Autonomy, which has been in production since 2000. It is a conceptual search engine based on natural language queries. There have been some users who have expressed dissatisfaction with the search results that Autonomy has been providing.
 - On the basis of anecdotal user feedback, CIO moved Autonomy to the product 'watch list'. Subsequently, the ITA team, with CIO, have been investigating either enhancing the current Autonomy configuration or adopting other viable solutions. Autonomy representatives have been onsite to tune the current configuration and some improvement has been realized. However, ITA has also engaged in fact finding on the Google search appliance. Cost estimates are being developed.
 - It was pointed out that Autonomy advertises that it is used in 30 government agencies. The AWG agreed that several of these agencies should be surveyed to see how they are successfully using Autonomy.
 - AWG members raised several salient issues. It is unclear how the user feedback relates to the business requirements originally established when Autonomy was introduced. Also, it is unclear if there is a real perception among users that Autonomy is ineffective.
 - As a result of this discussion, a meeting will be held with Autonomy representatives. The purpose of the meeting will be to provide a forum for business users to express their concerns about Autonomy and have Autonomy representatives understand business users' needs. To prepare for this meeting, more feedback from users will

be elicited. Also, other government agencies will be contacted to gather their experiences with Autonomy.

- When considering introducing another search engine into the architecture, the present and target requirements need to be revisited. Also, the cost of replacing Autonomy or operating another search engine concurrently with Autonomy will need to be considered.
 - November 1, 2002 is the tentative target date for identifying options. Schools will be meeting the first week of November, and the Schools Channel would like to use this as an opportunity to not only gather customer feedback, but also to communicate that the search engine is something that is being considered for improvement.
- Update on the Software Upgrades at the VDC
 - Solaris 2.6 to 2.8 upgrades for the Net Dispatcher hosts is underway. No other major upgrades are planned through December.